REMARKS

Claims 29, 32, and 37 have been objected to under C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1) for lacking clear support and antecedent basis in the specification for the phrase "stored on a computer-readable medium." In this regard, the description of the development system 40 commences on page 4 with reference to Figure 3 and describes, in detail, the various components and their operation. In contrast to the Examiner's assertion, the penultimate paragraph, on page 54, recites "[a]ll of the processes and components of the development system 40 are preferably executed by a computer program or programs." It is inherent in this description, and one skilled in the art would fully recognize, that a computer program would necessarily require storage on computer-readable storage media in order to operate. Thus, Applicant's specification provides clear support for Claims 29, 32, and 37. It is assumed that the foregoing explanation will result in the withdrawal of the objection under C.F.R. § 1.75(d)(1).

Applicant acknowledges that Claims 19-28 and 36-38 have been allowed.

Applicant further acknowledges that Claims 9-18, 33-35 and 39 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In this regard, Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of Claims 8 and 9 and is thus assumed to be allowable. Claims 2, 3, 6, 10-18, 29-30 and 33-35 depend from Claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons as Claim 1 and by reason of the additional limitations called for therein.

Claim 31 is patentable for reasons similar to those with respect to Claim 1 by calling for a system for developing an interactive system, including "means for executing grammatical inference to enhance the grammar on the basis of observations recorded by said system, including means for executing a model merging process that includes: processing rules of the grammar; creating additional rules representative of repeated phrases; and merging equivalent symbols of the grammar; wherein said rules define said slots and include said symbols."

Claim 32 is patentable for reasons similar to those with respect to Claim 1 by calling for a development tool for an interactive system, including "code for executing grammatical inference to enhance the grammar on the basis of observations recorded by said system, including code for executing a model merging process that includes: processing rules of the grammar; creating

additional rules representative of repeated phrases; and merging equivalent symbols of the grammar; wherein said rules define said slots and include said symbols."

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the claims of record are in condition for formal allowance and that the application should be passed to issue. Should the Examiner believe that the application is not in a condition for allowance and that a telephone interview would help further prosecution of this case, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the phone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: _January 20, 2009_   By: _____

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